

gone, the cattle will quit the field, and take our place.

This huge tree was produced originally only from a single acorn, like those of which you see thousands now hanging on the tree. Though it is impossible to number the leaves on its branches and boughs, yet let me desire you to remember, that not any two of those leaves are alike. I am sure, Master Billy, you would be glad here to have a game at trap-ball, nor would Miss Charlotte be less pleased to read some of her little entertaining books under this noble and pleasing shade.

How short is the continuance of human life, when compared to the long-lived oak, which is said to be an hundred years, from the first planting of the acorn, to the time of its maturity; it is also said to remain an hundred years in its prime, and to be an hundred more in decaying! But, having made this observation, so common among those who  
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have not had much experience, or received the advantage of education, it may be necessary to observe, that this is not always the case; for its strength greatly depends on the vigour of the plant, the nature of the soil it grows in, and its situation with respect to particular winds.

Do not think, my dear children, that this tree is so long growing merely to afford the beast of the field a shelter. No, it answers many noble purposes. While it is growing, it produces vast numbers of acorns, which serve to fatten vast quantities of hogs, and make excellent pork or bacon. When the axe of the woodman lays it level with the earth, it is then called timber, and is made use of in the building of strong houses, where it has been known to endure unimpaired for more than an hundred years. But the noblest use that is made of it, is in building of ships, which sail to the remotest parts of the world, withstand the fury of tempestuous elements, and convey